

LEONARDOVILLE

1. Leonardo da Vinci throws away paintings by the side of a brook, letting the brook carry them downstream. He is deciding which ones he'll keep and which ones he'll throw away. He is deciding the fate of his paintings by examining them in every conceivable way (and a few inconceivable ways), and strikes one as a slightly comical figure at this moment. "Yea, I think I'll keep this one. No, on second thought, I think I'll throw it away. No, maybe I should keep it." He promptly throws it into the brook. A sign on a nearby tree announces that anyone caught in possession of a painting by LDV (Leonardo da Vinci) gets a year in the dungeon. As LDV watches the painting float away, he stands up and starts walking after it, still considering whether he should rescue it or not. He pauses for a moment, as the painting continues to evaporate in the distance. Suddenly he runs after it and plunges into the brook, carrying it back to his original spot by the brook with his other paintings. He continues to decide the fate of his paintings.
2. Downstream a group of men and women gypsies are frolicking in the water, naked. The way in which the camera avoids showing their private parts is hilarious, a leaf blocking one view replaced by a bird blocking another. When several paintings begin floating towards them, a conversation results. The furthest one upstream is the first to see the paintings, so he is the first to speak: "Hey, what are these?" The next one to see the paintings float by says, "They look like LDV's. I recognize them." The next one to see the paintings float by starts to lift them off the water, saying, "We'd better collect these and return them to him." They all start removing the paintings from the water. A few paintings get by.
3. By another part of the brook, many, many miles away (30 miles) Mona Lisa is leaning against a tree watching a bird flying. He leads her eyes to an approaching Messenger, where her eyes land. He hands her a message, which she opens. "Oh, it's from Bernardo, my love!" she says, hugging and kissing the Messenger in a frenzy of emotion. He walks away with adolescent delight as she reads the letter. The letter is filled with excessive emotion, which builds her mood to one of indescribable rapture. She glances wildly around at the scenery as tears of emotion stream down her face, even though every word in the letter is little better than a dime store romance novel. Among other things the letter includes the information that she is engaged to Bernardo, and that he is involved in important business and should be able to return to his "Italian daisy with all of its petals intact" in a few days. She stashes the letter in her underwear. She closes her eyes and sleeps, as the bird returns to what would have been her field of vision.
4. A merry festival day in Mona Lisa's village. Everyone is indulging in food and wine and cavorting and behavior similar to that. The center of attention is a performance by gypsy lutist Jimmy Pitsicado. There is another gypsy next to Jimmy with a rooster in his lap and a stick in his hand. At a certain section of the song the rooster is always hit with the stick, producing a sound that is slightly appropriate to the song, which sends the crowd into laughter. After the song the rooster is set

free to wander between the feet of the lively crowd. As the next song proceeds, the rooster can occasionally be heard producing the same sound it made while "onstage". Finally it makes its way out of the crowd, where a little boy, Michael, picks it up and runs away with it. Mona Lisa is now involved in "grape squashing" shoulder to shoulder with many others. Jimmy Pitsicado, meanwhile refrains between songs to take a swig from a nearby wine bottle. He is visibly pleased. "Who is responsible for this wine? I must meet the person who is responsible!" He leaves the center of the circle where he was playing. A moan sweeps over the crowd at being left behind. Jimmy grabs the first person he sees thrusts the lute in his hands. Jimmy says, "Here, you put your right hand like this and your left hand like that." The man with the lute is bewildered, but a chant rises up from the crowd, and they push him into the center of the circle. He starts to play, at first hesitantly, but within a matter of seconds he is playing and singing like a virtuoso. Jimmy Pitsicado walks up to the grape squashers and drunkenly demands to know why no one signed their name to the wine bottle in his hand. "But I know who did it. It was you, wasn't it?" he says to Mona Lisa. She points her finger at herself as if to say, "Who me?" She shakes her head. "Oh yes it was!" insists Jimmy. He leaps into the grape squashing barrel, causing her to try to escape, but he fights his way through the people and carries her out. She looks helplessly at the others, who are all laughing. "You're right, Jimmy. Those are the feet," someone calls. Mona Lisa struggles helplessly in Jimmy's arms. She is released in the middle of a circle where everyone is dancing. Jimmy starts dancing with her but she immediately tries to escape. He dances more aggressively, not releasing her hand from his. The festival goes on.

5. In his studio LDV is painting a picture of Bernardo. Leonardo says, "Okay, now, when I count to three, I want you to smile."

6. Back in Mona Lisa's village, she is beginning to enjoy herself. The crowd has cleared out of the dancing area, everyone watching Jimmy and Mona Lisa dancing. Every now and then when her head tilts back someone in the crowd pours some wine into her mouth, which always causes a ripple of laughter. She is growing more and more drunk with every passing moment, as all of the images around her start to blend together. Finally she lands flat on her back. The crowd laughs and disbands. Jimmy lands himself next to her. Two little girls shyly walk up to him and say, "Jimmy Pitsicado, will you play that song of yours for us, 'Leonardo The Madman?'" Jimmy takes a swig of wine and responds, "Gee, I'd like to girls, but, someone else has my lute. What are your names?" "I'm Maria, and she's Rachel." They both giggle. "Well Maria, the next time I'm playing 'Leonardo The Madman', I promise I won't strum a single note until the two of you are there. Okay?" The two look at each other and smile, then run away. Jimmy turns his attention to Mona Lisa, who is smiling up at him. Meanwhile, the man with Jimmy's lute is beginning to trip over parts of songs. The crowd begins to boo, until a very drunk man enters the circle, knocks him out, and takes the lute. The crowd cheers. The man who has the lute now starts to swing it around over his head. "Everybody back!" he says. A path is cleared for him and he searches wildly for Jimmy, his eyes landing in the most unlikely places.

The festival is starting to thin out, even in the grape squashing barrel. The man with the lute is in the middle of an empty field shouting, "Jimmy Pitsicado! Jimmy Pitsicado! Where are you?" Jimmy Pitsicado and Mona Lisa are making love. The man with the lute, unsuccessful in his attempt to find Jimmy, sits down and begins to play a song for himself.

7. Mona Lisa wakes up in her room to the sound of a bird tweeting on her windowsill. She lays in bed smiling up at it, until it is chased away by the approach of Jimmy Pitsicado. "Eh, beautiful, I'll show you off today, introduce you to all my gypsy friends." "That... would be nice," she says dreamily. "Do you mean those people who were there when we were dancing together yesterday?" "Them? No. I mean real gypsies. I know gypsies from all over. They gather to hear me play." "You?" Mona says, laughing. "You are the king of the gypsies?" "When I have my lute, that is. Someone stole it from me yesterday while I was drunk. First we find the lute, then I take you to meet everybody," Jimmy says. "Come, wake up, get dressed! I must catch the thief before he gets too far away!" There is a painting of Bernardo on the same wall as the window, which, unbeknown to Jimmy, Mona is looking at. She looks back at Jimmy.
8. Back in Leonardo's studio, Bernardo is saying through his smiling teeth, "Can I stop smiling yet?" "How can I paint with all this chatter!" Leonardo screams furiously, sending a barely perceptible trace of terror across Bernardo's smiling face. "That's better," Leonardo says.
9. Mona Lisa and Jimmy Pitsicado are walking from gypsy gathering to gypsy gathering, inquiring after the missing lute. It soon becomes apparent that Jimmy had fabricated the part about it being stolen, which Jimmy rationalizes by saying, "I was drunk. The thief, he knew I would get drunk sooner or later, and that's when he took action. But he should know that no one can fool the king of the gypsies!" "How did you get to be this 'king of the gypsies'?" "Everybody knows that I am king of the gypsies! Why I am king of the gypsies? I play my gypsy music, I'm good to the gypsy women, and I know how to milk a gypsy goat."
10. The man with the missing lute is still where we last saw him, sitting in the field playing a song(poorly). It is the same song he was playing when last we saw him. A goat is now in his audience, listening with extreme satisfaction.
11. "Perhaps so," says Mona Lisa. "But is that all it takes to be king of the gypsies? Even I know how to milk a goat." "Quiet, woman! I have to concentrate my thinking on finding my lute!" They walk in silence for a while.
12. The group of gypsies who found Leonardo's paintings are walking through a village, all clothed now. "We'd better hurry. I'm sure he's very upset thinking that these paintings are gone." "Well then why don't we send someone on ahead of us to tell him that we're coming, if you think that's so important. But we'll be there in twenty minutes anyway." "No, I think it's best to send someone ahead. We'll have to find someone with a horse. That's the way things are done." "Okay, you go find someone with a horse. We'll keep walking."



13. Mona and Jimmy are in the field that the lute is in, but don't see it. Suddenly Mona stops. "Wait!" she says, "I think I hear it." "Hear what?" "A lute! Shh!" They both stop. They hear it. "That's a lute alright, but it's not my lute," says Jimmy. "What do you mean?" "My lute could never sound like that."
14. The man with the lute is emotionally wrapped up in himself, with tears streaming down his face because of the emotional content of the lute song. The goat feels the same way.
15. Mona says, "Well maybe. But we should find out." "How come you never believe the king of the gypsies?" says Jimmy, but allowing Mona to lead. When they reach the man in the field, Jimmy shouts, "My lute! Give me back my lute!" He attempts to snatch it away from the man playing it, who looks back at Jimmy like a man experiencing his second childhood for the first time only to have his baby carriage rolled over a cliff. He struggles against Jimmy. The goat, paralyzed by surprise for a moment, reacts shortly by attacking the lute, smashing it to pieces.
16. The gypsies with the paintings, minus the person who went to get someone with a horse, enter Leonardo's studio. They present the paintings to him. He is overcome with emotion, tears rolling down his face. "My paintings! I thought I would never see them again!" he says, embracing each member of the gypsy party, the women somewhat more tenderly than the men, sometimes a lot more tenderly. When the gypsies have left, Bernardo says, "I thought you deliberately threw those in the brook because of the ban on your work? I thought you said you only wanted to keep your most precious ones." Leonardo casts a look of such fury at Bernardo that the frozen smile immediately returns to Bernardo's face, and Bernardo's painting continues.
17. A painting of Leonardo's in the brook is caught by an overhanging branch. A frog hops onto it for a brief moment, but long enough to set it free. It continues to float downstream.
18. The king is sitting in his royal chamber, King Mario, with assistants to his right and left. "How many signs have we put up?" "Fifty, your majesty." "Fifty! There are more than fifty trees in Italy! I want that sign posted on every tree in Italy! So he thinks he can paint my daughter in the nude and get away with it, does he? Every tree!" "Yes, your majesty."
19. Jimmy and Mona are walking through a forest, past a tree with one of the king's notices on it, although his newest order has not yet been carried out. The goat is with them, as well as a horse tied to the goat, leading the party. "Who do you want to meet when we get to the city?" asks Jimmy. "Why, are there more gypsies in the city?" "Listen, when you're king of the gypsies, it's not just gypsies who know you. I know everyone. How about Leonardo da Vinci? How would you like to meet him?" "Who is he?" "What, haven't you ever heard my song, 'Leonardo The Madman?'" "Oh, the one those little girls wanted to hear?" "I'll introduce you to him after I buy a new lute. You'll really get a kick out of him."

20. Later on, Jimmy is trying to milk the goat, but every time he begins, the horse it is tied to walks forward a few steps, the goat having to follow. Jimmy's only solution is to persevere in the same way, with tears of frustration rolling down his face.
21. Mona is sitting by the side of the brook, reading Bernardo's letter for the last time. She is very solemn. She tears it up into little pieces and throws them on the brook. They float downstream much like the paintings. She takes her engagement ring and throws it in the brook.
22. Jimmy is continuing with the same amount of difficulty. Mona comes running up, her face bright with excitement. In her hand is the painting that the frog set free. "Look what I found floating down the brook! It appeared out of nowhere!" "That's a da Vinci! That guy I was telling you about! Now how did it get there? Well, we'll ask him when we see him." Jimmy's mind is mostly on the goat. Mona watches him with a dubious look on her face. Finally Jimmy gives up. "Stupid goat. How can I expect a goat that smashes my lute to provide milk? Come on, let's go." They continue on their way, not seeing a nearby sign about the penalty for having a LDV painting.
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